

2020

McKee Library Annual Report 2020-2021

McKee Library

MCKEE LIBRARY

2020-2021



Annual Report

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
MCKEE LIBRARY

[SOUTHERN.EDU/LIBRARY](https://southern.edu/library)



Director's Message

Starting the 2020-21 academic year in the midst of a global pandemic brought the library, as well as SAU's campus, unprecedented challenges, but nothing could stop us from celebrating McKee Library's 50th Anniversary.

Many changes and advancements in librarianship and specifically at McKee Library were made during the 50-year span. The 1970s saw a growth in the library's physical collection with the addition of the Thomas Memorial Collection of Civil War and Abraham Lincoln-related materials, as well as technological advancements to its cataloging system. In the 1980s, the library began trialing computers, its first being the InfoTrac II, and the 1990s brought along access to the internet. By the early 2000s, students had access to 60 databases and over 200 DVDs. A major interior remodel took place in 2007, further advancing the library and its success. The Writing Center, and a few years later, the Tutoring Center, became part of our library family.

Now, with a significant increase in both physical and online materials, the library strives to have as much of a reach online as it does in person, which benefitted us greatly during the pandemic.

Although we couldn't host an in-person celebration to celebrate the library's 50 years of service, we adjusted our plans and observed this significant anniversary in a few different ways. On September 24, 2020, exactly 50 years after the library's official opening, we gave out chocolate bars customized for the occasion and hosted a selfie scavenger hunt for our students. Successful participants were included in a drawing for a \$50 gift card. Additional acknowledgement of our anniversary has included exterior banners and historical displays, as well as an online event during Homecoming Weekend where alumni and librarians, past and present, could reminisce about our shared history. During this event, a short documentary-style video created for the anniversary celebration was shown, and speaker Zane Yi, '00, PhD, reflected on how all knowledge comes from God.

Throughout the years, one thing that hasn't changed is the librarians' commitment and desire to serve our students, faculty, and members of the community to the best of our ability, in forward-thinking and innovative ways. To that end, we stand by our mission to equip learners through instruction, resources, and spaces for lifelong academic and professional growth.

DEYSE BRAVO RIVERA
DIRECTOR

MEET THE TEAM

McKee Library's team consists of ten individuals, two of which are part-time. Despite the challenges of the past year, the team collectively completed 89 training sessions for the student workers and three internal training events for the staff.



GENEVIEVE COTTRELL

Cataloger



STANLEY COTTRELL

Technical Services Librarian



DEYSE BRAVO RIVERA

Library Director



SONJA FORDHAM

*Writing Center Director
Tutoring Center Director*



CAROL HARRISON

Circulation Manager



**MELISSA
HORTEMILLER**

Public Services Librarian



DONALD MARTIN

Digital Resources Librarian



SHELLY MERRYMAN

Tutoring Center Office Manager



SETH SHAFFER

Periodicals Librarian



JESSICA SPEARS

Research Services Librarian



A Mission-Focused Anniversary Year

Despite the challenges faced during a COVID-19 restricted school year, McKee Library continued to focus on serving the students, faculty, and staff of Southern Adventist University. After being closed during the summer, the library reopened in August 2020. The reopening brought many changes, including the closure of the library's shelves, online information literacy, and limited

seating. Throughout the year, the librarians intentionally sought ways to serve the campus with limited disruption. One way services continued was through the usage of online services, such as Zoom.

"Zoom provided an easy way to instruct, answer questions, and be safely available for our students."

During the Fall and Winter semesters, all library instruction was conducted via Zoom. The majority of the library's research coaching appointments were also conducted virtually.

The virtual aspect to the year also included the library's 50th Anniversary Celebration. This event featured a collaborative video, online lecture, virtual scavenger hunt, and custom banners both inside and outside the library.

Campus Research Day, normally held in person throughout the campus, transitioned to an online only event. Oral presentations were given via Zoom, with poster presentations recorded and posted on the event community within Knowledge Exchange. An online conference posed unique challenges, but enabled our campus

researchers to demonstrate their scholarly excellence during the midst of the pandemic. The winners of the event included Bailey Bryant for the Social Sciences, Christina Coston for the Humanities, Noah Manestar and Brayan Lopez for the sciences, and Jonathan Pinero for the poster session.

Looking ahead, McKee Library is expected to receive a new front entrance, providing much needed seating and improved front appearance to the building. Additionally, the library team will continue to innovate and provide the best services and resources for the campus community.



Preserving the Past Special Collections at McKee Library

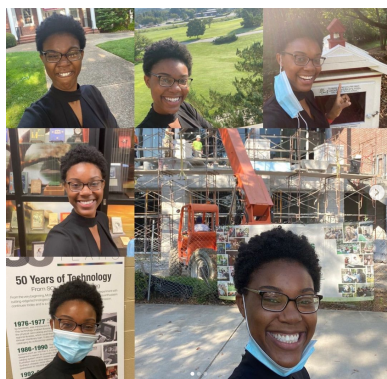
Safeguarding knowledge and creative works is one of many important and essential tasks within the field of library sciences. McKee Library has been entrusted with a number of unique and valuable collections over the past 50 years. Librarians also continue to place high emphasis on preserving and making accessible research conducted by Southern Adventist University students and faculty.

1973 Just three years after McKee Library first opened, Vernon Thomas donated two rare book collections: the Lincoln Library and the Civil War Collection. These contained books, periodicals, hand-written letters, and other items pertaining to the Civil War as well as Abraham Lincoln memorabilia, such as portraits, photographs, and even a check signed by Lincoln himself. The Thomas Memorial Collection opened to the public nearly three years later after the monumental task of sorting, classifying, and labeling the materials.

2001 Carlos Piana, former chair of the Modern Languages department, assisted the library in acquiring a French book collection from a rare books expert. Notable authors of the 18th-volume collection include Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Rousseau, and topics encompass history, philosophy, politics, poetry, and plays. Many titles in the collection were digitized in 2012, improving accessibility for students and other scholars.

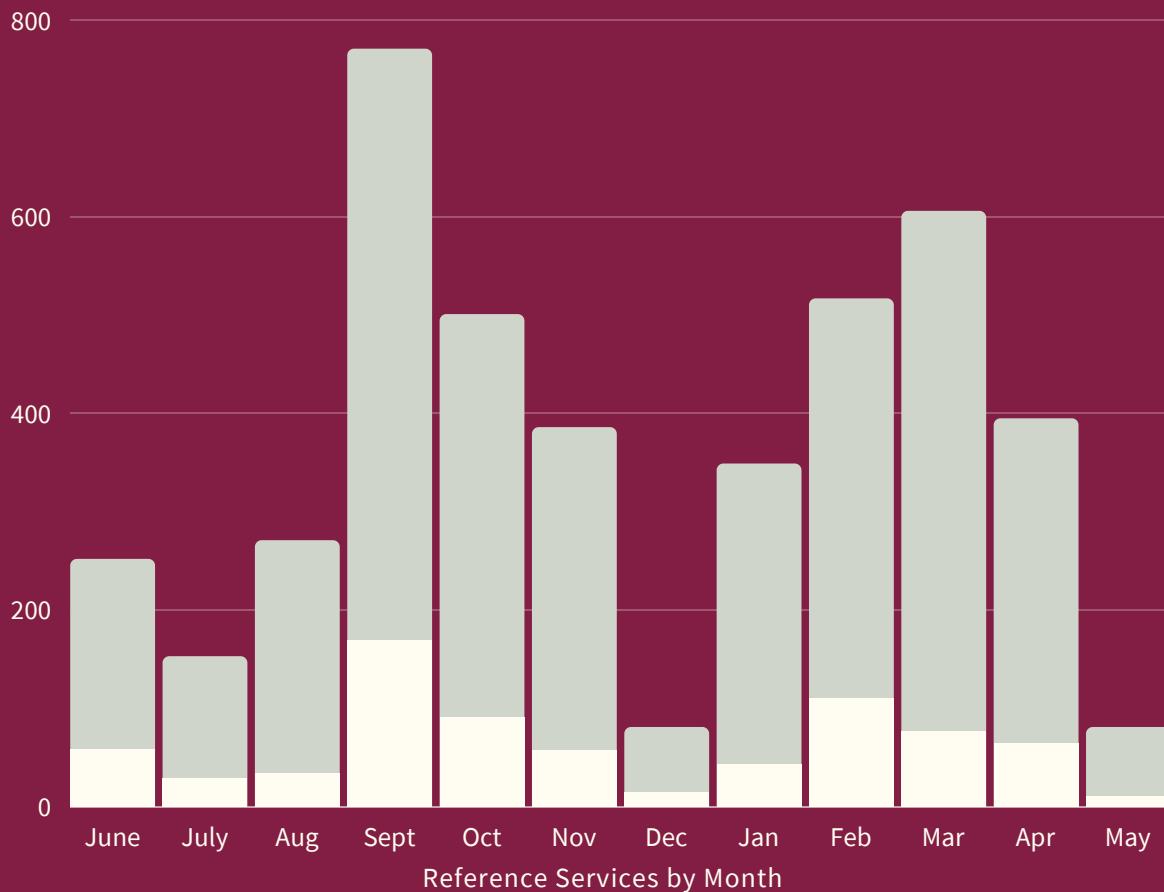
2009 Duane and Eunice Blatz donated a collection of books either about or authored by library legend Mark Tison to the library. Items included several rare first editions, signed copies, authentic letters, and other artifacts related to the American writer. The donors continue to add to the collection each year.

2013 The library implemented the institutional repository Knowledge@exchange@Southern, making Southern the first Seventh-day Adventist university in the United States to have one. Students and faculty are now able to submit creative or academic works—such as journal articles, research, creative writings, artwork, media projects, theses, and dissertations—for inclusion in the repository. The general public can search for and view these works on McKee Library's website.

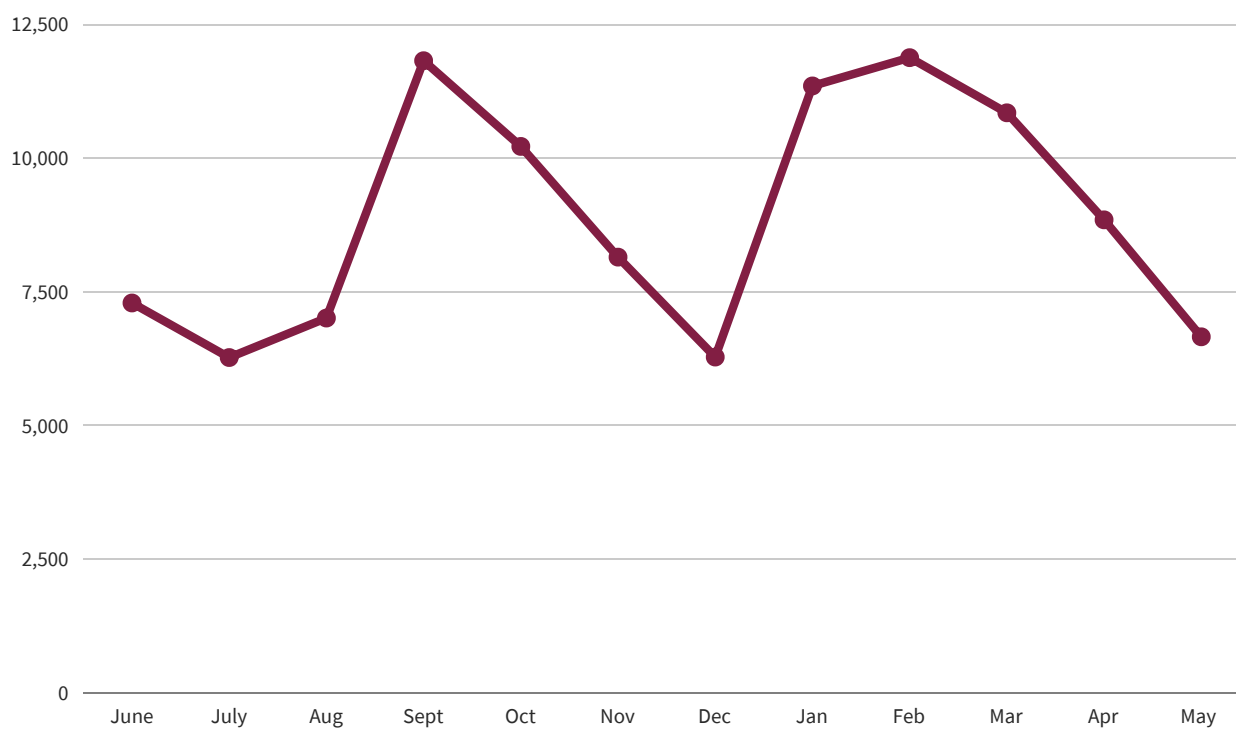


Statistics

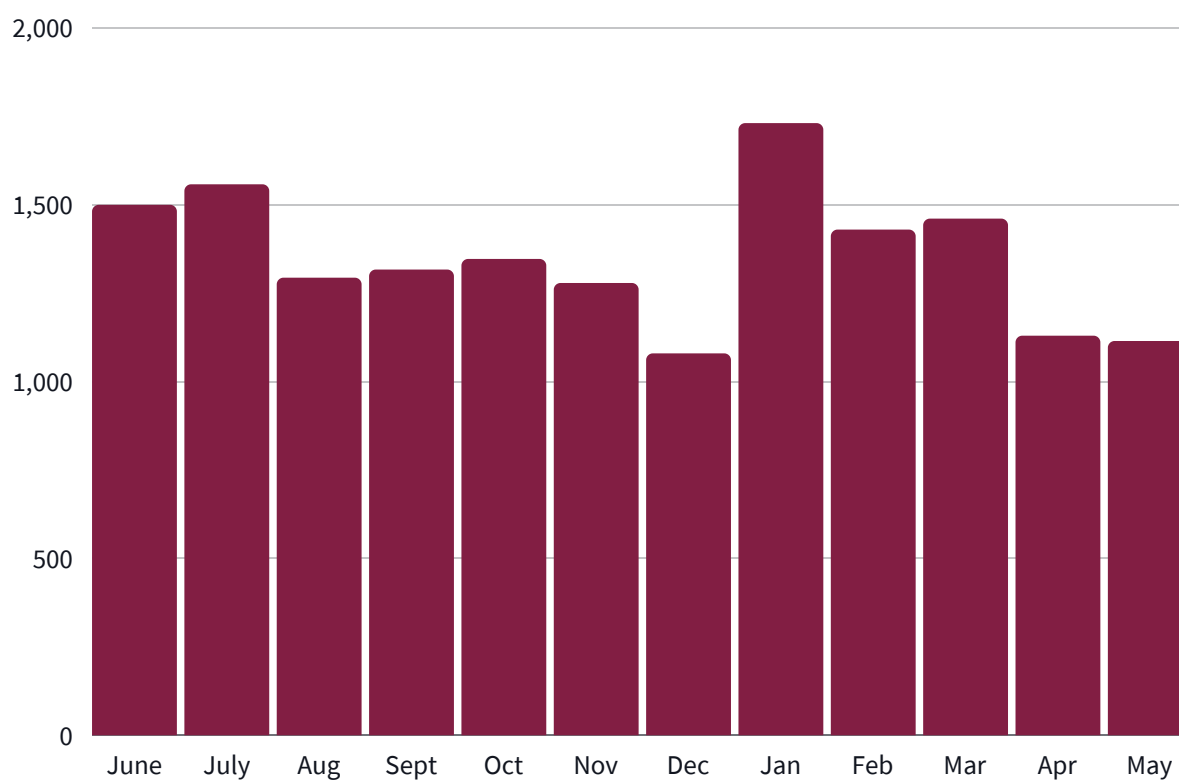
- A total of 14,321 items were circulated during the fiscal year, including books, media, and equipment such as our laptops.
- A total of 28,434 individuals visited McKee Library.
- A total of 907,234 database searches were conducted.
- 1,457 interlibrary loan requests were processed with an average turnaround time of 4.42 days.
- The embedded librarians integrated with 107 courses.
- Study room reservations declined this year, most likely due to COVID-19 requirements for the rooms. Utilization was 36.3% for Fall 2020 and 38% for Winter 2021.
- Physical periodicals were used 200 times during the fiscal year. Electronic periodicals not in library databases were used 4,729 times.
- The turnaround time for rush requests for books held steady at 2 days.



Cream represents chat questions and green represents client interactions.



Research Guide Views by Month



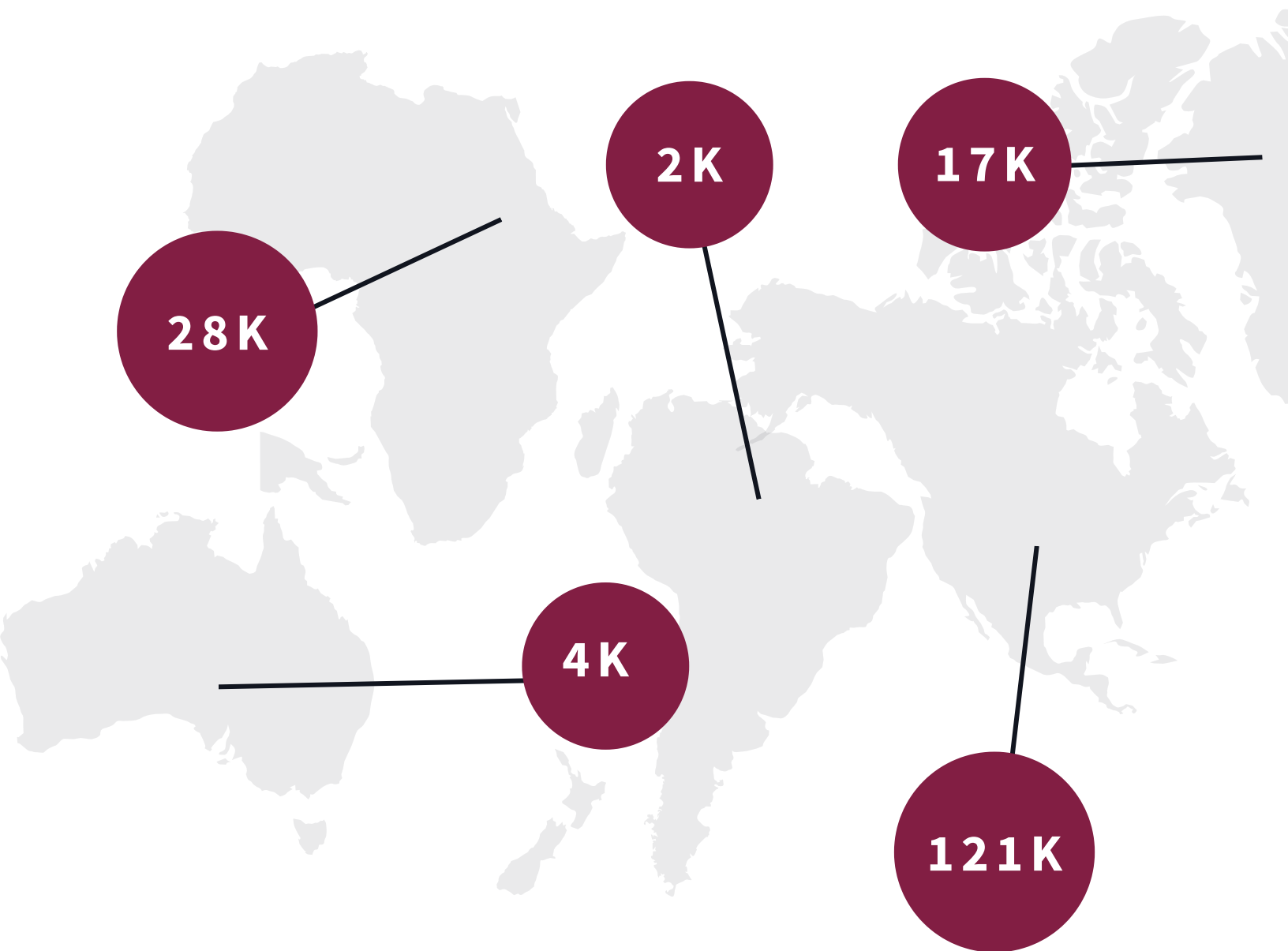
Frequently Asked Question Views By Month

548

research coaching appointments
scheduled during the fiscal year.

1,457

interlibrary loan requests
processed during the fiscal year.



Institutional Repository

Knowledge Exchange, Southern Adventist University's institutional repository, continued to grow thorough the fiscal year. A total of 5,156 works are now included in the repository, with 945 works posted during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. In total, 216 different countries accessed Knowledge Exchange.

244K

A total of 244,582 repository items were downloaded during the fiscal year.

40K

The Knowledge Exchange website was accessed a total of 40,106 times.

4K

4,380 websites referred users to Knowledge Exchange. Google and Google Scholar linked 121,265 users to the repository.

7K

A total of 7,272 institutions accessed Knowledge Exchange content during the fiscal year.



The Writing Center and Tutoring Center continued to serve the campus community both in-person and online throughout the fiscal year.

The Writing Center conducted 2,008 sessions during the year. Tutors helped students brainstorm, clarify ideas, organize writing, strengthen sentences and paragraphs, cite sources correctly, and improve grammar and mechanics.

Feedback from students was positive. One student stated, "[My tutor] really helped me to understand a new way to think about my paper. She helped me discover how to organize it. She was also really helpful in helping me understand the formatting and she knew the answers to all of my questions. I really appreciate her help!"

The Tutoring Center conducted 5,763 sessions covering over 60 academic courses. One student stated: "[My tutor] was great! Very informative and

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Dr. Sonja Fordham, director of both the Writing Center and Tutoring Center, conducted 11 instruction sessions /workshops during the fiscal year.

2,008

Writing Center sessions
conducted between June 1, 2020
and May 31, 2021.

5,763

Tutoring Center sessions
conducted between June 1, 2020
and May 31, 2021.

